the course of these discussions and at various high level meetings, both sides have agreed to pursue measures to enhance interaction.and cooperation across the LoC, including agreed meeting points for divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interaction. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service has been operationalised, though it is temporarily suspended due to the earthquake. Both countries have also agreed to let trucks use this route to promote trade. Agreement has also been reached to start additional routes, including the Poonch-Rawalakot bus service and to finalize modalities for meeting points for divided families across LoC. These issues will be taken up again-once the infrastructure damaged by the earthquake is restored. Following the earthquake, both sides agreed to open five crossing points across LoC to facilitate the movement of people and relief material from either side.

Two rounds of talks have been held with Pakistan on the issue of Siachen and both sides have agreed to continue with their discussions to resolve the issue in a peaceful manner. India's consistent position on the Siachen issue is that authentication of the presently held positions has to be the first step before any redepoyment of troops is considered.

Joint control of India and Pakistan over Kashmir

†2465. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: SHRI
SURENDRA LATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government have succeeded so far in resolving the Kashmir problem and the level at which discussions are being held with Pakistan by Government at present and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether the Government are also considering upon any option regarding joint control of India and Pakistan over Kashmir;

(c) if so, the concise details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which Government think the possibility of solving the problem appropriate by joint control keeping in view of the past attitude of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) India is committed under the Simla

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, to resolve all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the issues being discussed with Pakistan within the framework of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue. Two rounds of dialogue have been successfully concluded and the third round is scheduled to begin in January 2006. In the course of these dicussions and at various high level meetings, both sides have agreed to pursue measures to enhance interaction and cooperation across the LoC, including agreed meeting points for divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interaction. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service has been operationalised though it is temporarily suspended due to the earthquake. Both countries have now agreed to let trucks use this route to promote trade. Agreement has also been reached to start additional routes, including the Poonch-Rawalakot bus service and to finalize modalities for meeting points for divided families across LoC. These issues will be taken up again once the infrastructure damaged by the earthquake is restored. Following the earthquake, both sides agreed to open five crossing points across LoC to facilitate the movement of people and relief material from either side.

(b The Government has stated that there is no question of India accepting any change in the status of Jammu and Kashmir, which is and which will remain an integral part of India. There have been no discussions with Pakistan on changing, in any form whatsoever, the status of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Discussion with Bangladesh

2466. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issue that came in the lime-light during recent discussion between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh;

(b) the issues of convergence and divergence thereof, and

(c) the status of significant development during discussion on terrorism including North-East, barbed wire fencing transit communication, border crimes, trade and commerce etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Prime Minister met the